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REPORT

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A. Political-Economic

2. Increased SED Influence on NVA

Gustav Roebelen became Chief Political Officer of NVA. Recently, some 200 polit officer positions were allegedly newly filled or refilled [redacted]

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(Comment: Prior to Jan 1957, Roebelen was Chief of Security Department of SED Central Committee and, in this position, strongly influenced work of NVA Political Main Administration. In Jan 1957, he got a new, reportedly more important, assignment. So far, Brig Gen Dickel has been carried as Chief of NVA Main Political Administration. Remains to be seen whether Roebelen became his successor or if he will have exert increased party influence on NVA from position within Central Committee.)

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B. Armed Forces

I. USSR and "United" Forces (Warsaw Pact)

1. Total Strength

- a. Acc to Tass report of 6 Jan 1958, Soviet Forces to be reduced by another 300,000 men by late 1958, incl 41,000 men stationed in GDR and 17,000 in Hungary.

(Comment.

Execution of announced measure believed possible. Reasons for new reduction in general the same as with reductions announced since fall 1955:

Labor shortage in spite of growing population (surplus of births). Further decrease of strength of war-time age classes which will begin directly to affect replacements for armed forces appr in 1959. By 1961, strength of individual age class due for induction will have decreased to appr 600,000 as compared to more than 2 million at present.

New weapons with increased efficiency require smaller number of personnel, whereas labor demand of armament industry increases continuously.)

Announced new personnel reductions, to a large extent, may be effected within framework of reorganization of divisions in 1957, which resulted in surplus personnel f.e. deactivation of each one tank regt of mecz divs, further reduction of rifle units, etc. Combat power of GSFG units was not affected by reorganization.

b. Personnel Exchange (GDR-USSR)

Prior to 30 Dec 1957, following additional personnel shpmts observed crossing the border: USSR - GDR 3 loaded trains; GDR - USSR 11 loaded trains

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(Comment.

Personnel exchange continued acc to schedule. So far, total of 157 shuttle trains observed crossing the border. Worth noting that number of loaded trains GDR - USSR almost twice the number of trains opposite direction.)

II. GDR

1. Reserve

During last quarter 1957, officers of ground forces discharged as reserve officers because of inefficiency, lack of political

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- 2 -

activity, opportunism, or relatives in the West [redacted]

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(Comment.)

Measure undoubtedly to increase reliability of officer corps, composition and attitude of which not yet fully satisfactory. This was again apparent on occasion of removal of Marshal Zhukov as Soviet Defense Minister. Therefore, NVA officers to be discharged may include major number of former Wehrmacht officers.

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[redacted] In addition it may be planned in view of sufficient number of replacements and strength of officer corps to support and extend enlargement of reserve officer corps by repeated, somehow motivated discharges of active personnel. Officers discharged in this connection will have the possibility to join the police, recruiting and replacement offices, GST, trade organizations etc.)

During first half of Nov 1957, so-called reservist rallies were held on weekends by several units of ground forces, to which ex-members of these units had been invited. Reservists were informed in demonstrations and lectures on latest status of tng and weapon technique in their branch of service [redacted]

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(Comment.)

Reservist tng plan provides for such rallies in addition to annual exercises of several weeks. [redacted]

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2. "United" Headquarters (Warsaw Pact)

Maj Gen Hoffmann who has been in Moscow for prolonged period, was reported at Frunze Academy in Sep 1957 and will probably stay there until summer 1958 [redacted]

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(Comment.)

Almost all info available on Hoffmann's employment after late 1955 indicates that he was detached to Moscow for tng purposes. He was also reported as GDR representative to operational staff of Warsaw Pact Forces. For both reasons possible that he is stationed in Moscow.)

First international military athletic festival to be held betw 23 and 31 Aug 1958 under motto "Brotherhood in Arms in Spirit of Warsaw Pact". In this connection, athletic events involving total of appr 2,000 active army sportsmen from USSR, Czechoslovakia, GDR, Mongolia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Albania, China and North Korea to take place in Leipzig, Chemnitz, Magdeburg etc. [redacted]

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III. Bulgaria

Recruiting and Replacement Administration

In Oct 1957, members of 1938-class and draftees of 1937-class inducted for basic military tng [redacted]

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(Comment.)

Basic military tng was reduced in 1956, namely for army and security units from 3 to 2 years, and for air force and navy from 4 to 3 years. Border guard units still have to serve 3 years. Number of recruits

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**SECRET
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- 3 -

annually available: 50,000 - 55,000 men. Induction for basic military training in Soviet-Bloc countries effected as follows: in USSR, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria upon completion of 19 years; in Poland, Hungary and Albania upon completion of 20 years; in Rumania upon completion of 21 years. In Yugoslavia, classes of 1936 and 1937-classes were inducted in 1957.

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C. ARMY

I. USSR (GDR)

Training

Activities of GSFG units still restricted to small-scale tng at or near post. Occasionally 1-day absences of AT and RL units. Transfer of AAA units for firing practices continued: incl ehas AAA divs Third and Fourth Gds Meas Armies [redacted]

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(Comment: Present tng activity marked by departure of discharges and arrival of recruits. Gradual beginning of firing of AAA units does not correspond to observations in 1956 when AAA firing ranges were suddenly occupied by almost all AAA divs and other AAA units in mid-Dec. Delay possibly due to later beginning of 1957/1958 personnel exchange.)

II. GDR

Interior Order

In near future, NCO aspirants allegedly to enlist for 4 years instead of 2 as previously [redacted]

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(Comment: This measure probably due to observation that high tng level and striking power of troops essentially dependent on number of experienced NCOs. Experiences as instructor can be utilized only insufficiently when NCOs allowed to terminate service simultaneously with trainees, i.e. after 2 years. Doubtful that measure can be effected because of possible decrease of NCO aspirants.)

Annual promotion of NVA members studying at medical school-military section of Greifswald University allegedly to be discontinued at beginning of 1957/1958 school term. So far, students were officer aspirants until Physikum (intermediate examination after appr 4 or 5 semesters), and were promoted to rank of captain after final examination (Staatsexamen) or 5 study years. In future, promotions dependent on satisfactory conduct and scholastic achievements; no female applicants admitted [redacted]

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(Comment: If correct, info might indicate that number of students now enrolled sufficient to overcome still existing medical officer shortage.)

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- 2 -

III. Poland

Organization

In Jul 1957, following army units observed at Kolberg post: 1 meas unit of appr 2,000 men, 1 mort unit of appr 800 men, 1 med AAA unit of appr 800 men, 1 enar unit of appr 400 men and 1 air landing unit of appr 2,000 men []

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(Comment: Kolberg located in area 8th Meas Div (Hq Koeslin). Of this div, 32d Meas Regt, 15th Mort Regt, u/i Engr Bn and 37th Arty Regt stationed at Kolberg. U/i med AAA Regt in Kolberg believed to belong to 16th Army AAA Div (Hq Koeslin). Polish air landing or parachute units so far not definitely identified. However, vague indications of such special units (1951 Kolberg) available. Observation of air landing units at tng camps during 1957 Polish maneuvers also indicates existence of such units. Organization and subordination so far undetermined.)

IV. Hungary

Order of Battle

Reorganization of Hungarian Army proceeds slowly. Several organizational cadres activated. Induction of recruits has started. At least elms of 1936-class due for induction in the fall of 1956 inducted in the spring of 1957, while 1937-class or at least elms were inducted acc to schedule in late fall 1957 []

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In late Jun 1957, field exercise of several days in Baja area involved 2-3 Hungarian units at regt strength. Column observed incl appr 30 T-34s with Hungarian crews, 4-5 partly horse-drawn batteries incl AT guns, mortars, 37-mm AA guns and AA machine guns, and appr 5 rifle cos, 3 of which loaded on 10-12 trucks (each 30 men) []

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(Comment: Reorganization of Hungarian Army still under way. Info does not yet allow final conclusion as to its strength, organization, armament, equipment and date of readiness for employment. Observation of tanks with Hungarian units indicates improved tng level. Undetermined if these hr weapons allotted to Hungarians at free disposal or only temporarily for tng purposes under Soviet control. []

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D. Air Force

I. USSR

1. Location of Troops

Since 18 Dec 1957, Finow airfield has been occupied by a flying unit with 28 IL-28s observed on 3 Jan 1958 []

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On 24 Dec 1957, take-off and landing practices were continuously made []

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(Comment: The arrival of about 1,000 ground personnel during the second half of Nov 1957 and trial landings indicated the expected occupation by a flying unit. Accord to prev observations, the newly arrived unit is a bomber regiment whose origin is still unknown. There are some indications that it is one of the 2 Bmr Regts from Werneuchen. This transfer would agree with the needed dispersal of aircraft and troops. No shipments were observed in connection with the arrival at Finow of ground elements. Usually, short-distant transfers are made by road.)

Since 12 Dec 1957, 4 radio trucks with 2 Kniferests and an antenna of u/i type, with 40 NVA/L men headed by a first lieutenant, observed at Neuhardenberg airfield, 600 meters north of runway []

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(Comment: Occupation by flying unit not yet determined. The establishment of a radio station may be the first indication of expected occupation.)

2. Command and Training of Troops

Air activity by Twenty-Fourth Air Army continued to be moderate and, depending on weather conditions, mainly limited to instruction flights and short local flights by newly arrived pilots.

3. Logistics

Accord to observations of Nov 1957, concreting work was done on a 12-15 km long strip of the Berlin-Nuernberg autobahn south of Dessau, referred to as Rennstrecke (5140 N / 1212 E), extending from Koeckern west of Bitterfeld to the north. The whole width of the strip was concreted with a white stripe indicating the middle. Two or 3 bridges at intervals of about 4 km cross the strip.

(Comment: The strip was improved as auxiliary take-off and landing strips as noticed on other autobahns.)

II. Poland

Location of Troops

In early Dec 1957, 15-20 jet aircraft of u/i nationality were parked at edge of wood on Gollnow-Marsdorf (5335 N / 1455 E) airfield []

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- 2 -

(Comment: Gollnow-Marsdorf airfield is believed to be occupied by a Polish fighter regiment with MiG-15s which presumably came from Simmatsig (5347 N, / 1551 E).)

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F. Paramilitary and Paramilitary Organizations

GDR

Determined in Nov 1957 that direct connections between GST and FDJ and/or Sportgemeinschaften to be discontinued, while direct connections with SED and combat groups to be established and new measures under way concerning reorganization of GST "on basis of military discipline" [REDACTED]

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(Comment: In present situation, this may add up to following: ideological and political indoctrination in future exclusively by SED, influence of which on filling of positions may have increased. Otherwise GST structure not affected. "Basic units" which are being reorganized on combat group pattern may be employed in case of emergency with and under direction of the latter. At Kreis level and above, DVP in charge of command. [REDACTED])

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[REDACTED] Normally GST tng conducted acc to directives by Central board and Secretariat and thus acc to orders by Ministry for National Defense, rather than jointly with combat groups.)

During last 2.5 months, members of combat groups incl entire squads and platoons were repeatedly trained on weapons, vehicles and equipment of AAA units in Gross Berlin area [REDACTED]

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(Comment: Within framework of further improvement of home air defense, apparently planned to rely on combat groups to certain extent.)

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